Assistance from religious leaders in family planning programmes

1164. SHRi KRJSHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swaminathan Committee report on draft population policy has streassed on the need for special efforts to enlist the sup port and participation of religious leaders in family planning programmes;

(b) whether Government have taken any further steps in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) response if any, of the religious leadeis in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE VHNISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, n'r.

(b) to (d) In major States opinion eaders, including religious leaders, are) leing sensitized for positive opinion for-aatiou in the family welfare programme. *to* adverse response has been received rom any religious group.

Availability of tetracycline to prevent plague

1165. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Iinister of HEALTH AND FAMILY vELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Govern-ient has been drawn towards the news aptioned, "Tetracyline-'Brahmastra' one bust" that appeared in a Local >aily;

(b) looking over the controversy over Tectivnes$_s$ of this medicine in plague hat alternative or effective medicine institute have been found.

(c) whether there was neither enough ipacity of treatment in Surat nor in elhi during the spread of plague and ttients wer$_e$ even dennied admission in >spitals and treatment by doctors dur-g recent attack of this dreaded disease; d

(d) what measures are being taken on. country level to prevent such occurence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C SILVERA): (a) The news' report ha$_s$ come to the Government's notice.

(b) Tetracycline is very effective in the treatment of Plague. However, other antibiotics like Chlorenphenicol and Streptornycine etc, are also available.

(c) There was sufficient capacity with the city hospitals to treat the plague patients and no reports of denial of admission in hospitals were received.

(d) Close surveillance and implementation of precautionary and prevenive measures are continuing. These would be further strangthenej Suitable upgra-dation of laboratories is also envisaged.

News item regarding the spread of Flu

1166. SHR1 KRISHNA KUMAR HIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, be pleased (o state;

(a) whether the attention of Govern ment has been drawn to a press news item captioned "Flu epidemic may re occur" as ^reported in "The Statement" dated 5th October, 1994;

(b) if so, whether there are possibilities of global epidemic of Flu;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to fake any preventive steps in this regard; and

(d) jf so, the details thereof?

THF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS IRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pariodic epidemics of Flu are a globaj phenomenon.

(c) and (d) National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides diagnostic services for common viral pathogens responsible for flu and Unlike syndromes etc